

Clinical Placements

Clinical placements are available to students pursuing a degree or diploma in therapeutic recreation from nationally or internationally accredited institutions.

Placement Process

- If you are a student affiliated with a Canadian educational institution, your request for a placement with Alberta Health Services (AHS) should originate from the institution. See AHS Student Placement [Student Placement | Alberta Health Services](#)
- Requests may be submitted at any time but will be only be released to the local coordinator for consideration on or after: January 1 (for Spring-Summer), May 1 (for Fall), Sept 1 (for Winter).
- Once your request is released to the local coordinator, we will work to match your learning goals and preferred clinical area of interest with an available supervisor.
- Students are responsible to ensure their preceptor qualifications and placement timelines meet their school, ATRA and/or NCTRC requirements needed for a valid placement and to meet future registration and certification requirements.
- Please contact the Student Placement Team at Student.Placements@AHS.ca if you have any questions.



For students planning future employment in Alberta following graduation, please review the requirements for professional membership with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA): [Practicum Placements | ATRA \(alberta-tr.ca\)](#)

Full and part-time students are encouraged to apply for membership with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) to be eligible for student awards and bursaries [Student Awards and Bursary Program | ATRA \(alberta-tr.ca\)](#)



Approved by: AHS Provincial Recreation Therapy
Professional Practice Council
5th ed Feb 2023; original March 2016



Recreation Therapy Student Placements

Information for Students and Post Secondary Educational Institutions

February 2023

Learning Opportunities

With supervision, the student will perform clinical duties to support client and family-centred care. This will include assessment, goal setting, intervention, program planning, education, evaluation, documentation and caseload management, using therapeutic recreation modalities and techniques.

The student will have opportunities to:

- participate in professional development, in-services, patient rounds, team meetings and family meetings, as available.
- observe other health professionals and recreation therapists through the service continuum, as available.



Practice Areas

- Rehabilitation (inpatient, outpatient, community)
- Addiction and Mental Health (inpatient, community, day treatment) – adult, adolescent and geriatric populations
- Forensic psychiatry – adolescent and adult
- Early Supported Discharge
- Acute Care Transition
- Continuing care (home care, long term care, adult day support, supportive living)

Skills & Knowledge Acquired

- Communicate effectively and therapeutically in individual and/or group situations
- Work effectively and collaboratively within a health care team to meet the complex needs of clients and families
- Apply knowledge of therapeutic recreation clinical process
- Apply knowledge of medical terminology, diagnoses, medications and evidence informed practice that supports individualized interventions
- Use knowledge and strategies to address personal, functional and environmental leisure barriers
- Build awareness of community resources, programs and facilities for intervention and community integration
- Apply clinical judgement, independence, initiative and flexibility to practice within a dynamic and complex health care environment
- Build awareness of patient confidentiality, professional code of ethics and risk management
- Meet ATRA Entry to Practice requirements
- Meet requirements of NCTRC Job Analysis (as applicable to CTRS placements)

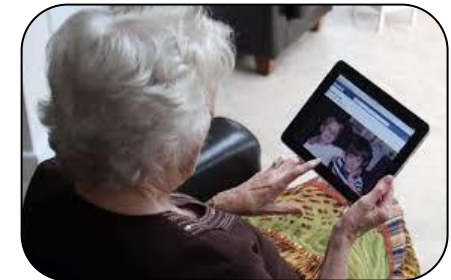
[AHS Recreation Therapist](#) [Recreation Therapist | Alberta Health Services](#)

[ATRA Entry to Practice Requirements: Qualification of a Recreation Therapist | ATRA \(alberta-tr.ca\)](#)

[NCTRC Path to Certification Academic Path | NCTRC](#)

Student Requirements

- Site-specific requirements for Basic Life Support (BLS) and N95 (Mask Fit Test)
- Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search
- Proof of vaccination history
- The student may be required to participate in activities and environments requiring good physical and mental health, above average strength and stamina
- Community treatments (as applicable) may occur in fitness and aquatic facilities, outdoor settings, libraries, community centres and public transit
- Personal transportation may be required
- Students are responsible for any costs incurred such as housing, parking, transportation, insurance, equipment and facility fees



Students can expect to work with clients with varying needs, including **mobility** (e.g., wheelchair/walker use, ambulatory, frail elderly, chronic pain), **cognitive** (e.g., memory, attention, dementia), **emotional** (e.g., sadness, grief) and/or **mental health diagnoses** (e.g., depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder).

***Acceptance to a placement is not guaranteed and may be dependent on capacity.*